WE ARE HAPPY TO BE A PART OF THIS
CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

Southside Virginia Electric Co-op
LOVINGSTON, VIRGINIA

Retreat From Petersburg To Sayler's Creek

By "CAPT" SAM FAULKNER
From The Farmville Herald 1897

A Visit Home On The Go

Soon after getting into camp, a lot of us came back to old Farmville, and were allowed to have that much-to-do. We were glad to see our friends, and they were glad to see us. We were passing the Richardson Hotel where General Pickett had his headquarters, when we met Gen. Pickett and our Adjutant General, called, and informed us that marches were to be resumed at 12 o'clock. We had just time to get back to camp, cook our rations, and be ready to march at the appointed hour. We were in camp without any shelter, a cold rain set in about midnight, and it was a disagreeable night to march. At 12 o'clock the 8th General Pickett held a grand review of his division. On the 16th we left Farmville, and marched to Manchester, where we got aboard the cars, old freight cars at that, and were soon whirling down and came to Burkeville. Here our trains, in two sections, left the Richmond & Danville tracks of the South Side railroad, now a part of the Norfolk and Western system, and struck out for Lynchburg. We soon passed through old Farmville. On reaching here all the people turned out and gave us a rousing welcome. The Confederate boys got "how come you so" in a hurry. We were soon speeding on our way to Pamplin City we learned that Sheridan's bridale had stopped off at Prince Edward Court House, and had burned the depot at Pamplin's and camped in a pine thicket. We were hurried on board the cars, and we soon had to leave our stuff. We now heard that the object of our movements was to attack Sheridan's wagon train, and thrashing, General Rinehart, who was making an effort to capture the train, was to be supported by the 8th. I looked for 'ol' Him that morning. Custer had been ordered to the front in front of him. Down the valley and did not need us. We took the cars again for Richmond, passed through Farmville but did not stop. Arriving at High Bridge we were marched out and camped in a field near the dwelling of Mr. Madison; the property is now owned by our townsman, C. W. Blanton.

Retreating

While troops were stationed in Farmville, the hospitals were removed to Lynchburg. After drawing rations for two days at Burkeville, the troops turned to the right, and marched up the Appomattox river. They struck the railroad at Prospect, and camped at Pamplin that night.

The Confederates Paroled

The surrendering officers and men were allowed to return to their homes on parole. Those who were at the surrender at Appomattox were soon back in their command. They had to wait release through regular channels. When a prisoner of war was released he took the following oath

"I do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the late insurrection, with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified or held void by the Supreme Court, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion, having reference to the emancipation of slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God."

I will be the master, owner or mistress of any slaves, or claim any slaves from any person, and I do not own any slaves at present. I will not hereafter own any slave, or claim any slaves from any person, but will treat them in all respects as free persons, further than the laws now in force or hereafter may be required of me by the laws of the United States, and I take this oath voluntarily and without any mental reservation or evasion whatever.

Jno. R. Weaver

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this twenty-first day of July, A.D. 1865

A. W. Brady
Lieut. and Provost Marshal."

"I, hereby Certify, That Jno. R. Weaver, whose name is signed to the above oath, has this day taken the oath prescribed in the Oath of Allegiance to the UNITED STATES, and has signed the same in my presence.

"The above named has dark complexion, black hair, and black eyes and is 5 ft. 7 inches high.

After taking these oaths the prisoner was returned a Certificate of Release

Head Quarters, Provost Marshal's Office,

"June 22nd 1865